

**SYMPOSIUM ON COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION HIGHLIGHTS NEED
FOR AWARENESS AND TREATMENT**
By Kathleen Piché, Public Affairs Director



In conjunction with L.A. County Board Supervisors, Mark Ridley-Thomas, Second District, and Don Knabe, Fourth District, LACDMH TAY System of Care sponsored an enlightening day of awareness, treatment and interventions around the exploding problem of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). Approximately 50 providers attended the all-day conference, held at Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' field office in Exposition Park.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas noted that community efforts need to come together to fight the problem, "When bad people plot; good people plan," he said. Ridley-Thomas also emphasized the need for creative thinking in fighting CSEC.



LACDMH Director, Marvin Southard, D.S.W., provided opening remarks, underscoring the importance of recognizing this population. “We have to be thoughtful of how we fight—fight in a way in which they don’t expect,” he said.



The morning keynote was presented by Nola Brantley, CEO, Nola Brantley Speaks, MISSEY Co-Founder and CSEC survivor, who spoke passionately on the issue and focused on the curriculum of the CSEC Community Intervention Project. Ms. Brantley suggested what may be next for LA County, including:

- Continued training for child-serving agencies
- First responder protocol
- Internal response protocol for child-serving agencies
- DCFS hotline and identification protocol
- Screening tool to identify CSEC
- Prevention and intervention workshops
- Development of CSEC placement options
- Multi-system data collection
- CSEC specialized services

Presented by the Westside Children's Clinic (Oakland) staff Erin Rosenblatt, Psy.D. and Amara Benjamin Bullock, M.F.T.I., the afternoon session focused on interventions and treatment; what works and what doesn't.



CSEC expert from LACDMH, Erica Reynoso, Ph.D., L.C.S.W., gave closing remarks.